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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,353	10/11/2001	Amy W. Lasek	PA-0038 US	6892

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EXAMINER

MARTINELL, JAMES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,353

Applicant(s)

LASEK ET AL.

Examiner

James Martinell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 and 3 drawn to combinations of nucleic acids containing sequences selected from SEQ ID NOs: 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26-29, 31, 33, 34, 36-39, 41-43, 45-47, 49, 51, 53, 55-58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72, 74-79, 81, 83-86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 94, 96, 97, 99, 100, 102-104, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 116, 118, 119, 121, 123-126, 128, 130, 131-137, 139, 140, 142-151, 153-157, 159, 160, 162-165, 167-172, 174, 176, 177, 179-181, 183-187, 189-191, and 193, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- II. Claim 2 drawn to combinations of nucleic acids selected from SEQ ID NOs: 172, 174, 176, 177, 179-181, 183-187, 189-191, and 193, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- III. Claims 4-6 drawn to methods for detecting differential expression, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- IV. Claim 7 drawn to methods for identifying ligands, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- V. Claims 9-12, drawn to cDNAs, vectors, host cells, and methods for producing proteins, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5 and class 435, subclasses 252.3, 325, 320.1, and 69.1.
- VI. Claims 13 and 14, drawn to proteins, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- VII. Claims 15 and 16, drawn to methods for determining binding partners to proteins, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.
- VIII. Claims 17-20, drawn to antibodies and methods for making and using antibodies, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1 and class 435, subclass 7.1.

Claim 8 is ungrouped because the claim does not depend from a method claim (as claim 8 recites) but from a composition claim. Thus, it is not clear which Group claim 8 ought to be in.

Claims 8 and 17 both depend from claims with higher numbers. Appropriate correction should be made in any response to this Office action.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons. Each of the combinations of Groups I and II and the nucleic acids of Group V is independent and distinct from the other combinations because the combinations are comprised of non-overlapping groups of SEQ ID NOs. Should applicant elect one of Groups I, II or V, and should one or more SEQ ID NOs in the elected Group be found to be free of the prior art, each Group containing the SEQ ID NOs free of the prior art will be rejoined with the elected Group (see MPEP 803.04). The nucleic acid combinations of Groups I and II are materially different from, and are therefore independent and distinct from the proteins of Group VI and the antibodies of Group VIII. The combinations of Groups I and II and the nucleic acids of Group V have uses other than in the methods of Groups III and IV. For example, the combinations of Groups I and II and the nucleic acids of Group V may be used in affinity chromatography. Neither the combinations of Groups I and II nor the nucleic acids of Group V are needed to practice the methods of Groups VII or VIII. The methods of Groups III, IV, V, VII, and VIII may each be practiced independently of one another. The proteins of Group VI have uses other than the methods of Groups III, IV, VII, or VIII. For example, the proteins of Group VI may be used in affinity chromatography. The antibodies of Group VIII are not need to practice any of the methods of Groups III, IV, V, or VII.

Claims 1-7 are drawn to compositions reciting different combinations of individual nucleotide sequences. Applicant is required to select one combination for examination. If the selected combination contains ten or fewer sequences, all of the sequences of the combination will be searched. If the selected combination contains more than ten sequences, the combination will be searched until one nucleotide sequence is found to be allowable. The order of searching will be chosen by the examiner to maximize the identification of an allowable sequence. If no individual nucleotide sequence is found to be allowable, the examiner will consider whether the combination of sequences taken as a whole renders the claims allowable. The identification of any allowable sequence(s) will cause all combinations containing the allowed sequence(s) to be allowed. See O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996).

Claims 9-12 are drawn to nucleotides, nucleotide constructs, and/or methods requiring the use of nucleotides or nucleotide constructs that contain more than one individual, independent, and distinct

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nucleotide sequence in alternative form. Accordingly, these claims are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as outlined in 1192 O.G. 68 (November 19, 1996). This notice permits the examination of from one to ten independent and distinct nucleotide sequences in a single application based upon USPTO resources.

Applicant is required to select no more than ONE of the individual sequences for examination. The search of the no more than ONE selected sequence may include the complement of the selected sequence and, where appropriate, may include subsequences within the selected sequence (*e.g.*, oligomeric probes and/or primers).

Claims 13-20 are drawn to more than one unrelated, independent, and distinct polypeptide or methods requiring the use of more than one unrelated, independent, and distinct polypeptide. Should applicants elect any one of Groups VI-VIII for examination, applicants are further required to select one polypeptide or a set of methods that requires the use of only one polypeptide for examination on the merits.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

To search any two groups as outlined above would create an undue burden for the U.S. PTO because the searches of the non-patent literature are not only non-overlapping to any appreciable extent, but are also divergent in nature.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


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Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Art Unit 1633 at (703) 308-4242. The faxing of such papers must conform to the rules published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Martinell whose telephone number is (703) 308-0296. The fax phone number for Examiner Martinell's desktop workstation is (703) 746-5162. The examiner works a flexible schedule and can be reached by phone and voice mail. Alternatively, a request for a return telephone call may be e-mailed to james.martinell@uspto.gov. Since e-mail communications may not be secure, it is suggested that information in such requests be limited to name, phone number, and the best time to return the call.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, can be reached on (703) 305-4028. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


James Martinell, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631